

COMMUNITY NEWS

DRUGS

(Continued from Page One)

and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to Chief Whitworth, three of the four suspects have prior arrests for drug related offenses. At the time of last week's arrest, he said Queen was out on bond for a manufacturing methamphetamine charge and possession of methamphetamine charge from two other separate arrests. Also, Hudson was on probation for two other separate arrests for possession of methamphetamine with intent to sell on probation for drug charges from Cullman County.

Following the arrests, the four suspects were transported to the Coffee County Jail.

While the methamphetamine charge from the first two arrests is still ongoing in Coffee County, Whitworth said he wanted to publicly commend his officers responsible for last week's arrests on a "job well done." They were Leslie Hussey of the 12th Judicial Drug Task Force, Investigator Tony Harrison, Officer Michael Adkison and Investigator Andy Gunter.

Whitworth said his officers will continue to use every resource possible to put a stop to the illegal use and manufacture of drugs, especially methamphetamine. He asks that anyone having information concerning drug activity please contact the Elba Police Department at (334) 897-2555.

The public is cordially invited to attend a Monument Dedication in memory of

Sergeant Jason Jordan

at ten o'clock in the morning on Friday, the twenty-eighth of January Two thousand and five

Veterans Memorial Park
661 East Davis Street
Elba, Alabama

Sergeant Jordan, a Coffee County native, was killed in action in Tallifar, Iraq on July 20, 2003.

Scheduled keynote speaker is Brigadier General Edward Sinclair (Commanding General, United States Army Aviation Center and School, and Fort Rucker)

Model A Ford donated to help Crohn's disease patient pay bills

26 year old Shannon Britt of Smith Station, AL has Crohn's disease and is in remission disorder, which can be controlled somewhat

Shannon Britt Ford, all restored but to date no permanent cure has emerged. She has battled the disease, and a multitude of related medical problems. He asks that anyone having information concerning drug activity please contact the Elba Police Department at (334) 897-2555.

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DEATH

Department of Public Safety Unit K-9 searches were also conducted from Covington and Escambia County Search and Rescue units and many volunteers from the immediate and surrounding areas assisted local law enforcement agencies with many hours of ground searches in efforts to find Pinkley.

Volunteers from the Houston County Search Unit provided divers and equipment to aid in the search.

Local law enforcement officials said they are grateful to all the volunteers who assisted in the search and recovery efforts.

While officials with the district attorney's office await the preliminary autopsy report from the Department of Forensic Sciences, authorities continue their investigation.

Skinner and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's core values —

Ella High School of Elba, Ala.

During the eight-week training program, Skinner completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

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EDITORIAL

Mentor Alabama - The right thing to do

Editorial by Troy King
Alabama's Attorney General

Con artists have no feelings for anything but the con job they are working. Most people have heard of the various rip-offs being pulled in the name of helping the tsunami victims. Well, here is how they have adapted an old, old scam to the December disaster. We got this in an e-mail Monday morning with all its poor English and misspelled words . . . "My name is S----- A----- a citizen of Turkey, am soliciting on behalf of my client Dr. Yu Wang an origin of Indonesia whom was recently involved in the current Tsunami Disaster with his entire family.

Before this sad event, he has executed a contract with the Federal Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in Uganda to the tune of US\$7.5, the contract has long been approved for payment.

As at result of a new Policy and Service Contract payment . . . Of course goes on wanting our bank account number, etc. to help transfer the money and promised a large share "for our help". As folks that basic scam is apparently it continues to draw in suckers who give out personal bank account numbers and ultimately find all their money withdrawn.

Believe it or not the levee contractors have finally started the long promised modification work on the Troy Highway at the levee crossing. The signs read that the road will be closed until late February but some of the workers think that if the weather cooperates it will reopen much sooner.

There is a very unusual lawsuit that has been filed in Albany, NY. A lady (state employee) is reportedly suing because she doesn't have any work to do. The woman tells of spending the business hours on \$100,000 a year (including benefits) job reading newspapers and working crossword puzzles. She has reportedly been a state employee for 24 years and hasn't had any work since the year 2000. This woman doesn't like that, nor should the taxpayers of New York State. She thinks she may have offended superiors when she questioned bosses about other workers attending the governor's annual prayer breakfast (apparently during working hours).

Industrial recruitment has become very competitive all across America. Tax incentives are one of the main drawing cards states and communities use in this effort. However, that may be coming to a screeching halt in the near future. An Ohio court has just declared some tax packages "illegal". Of course right now, it just affects Ohio. If it gets to be a lot more, what we call "industry buying" that suddenly stops. Recruiters in both Alabama and Florida, Georgia and Mississippi have been successfully fine-tuning that incentive method in recent years. We wonder what would happen in cases in which the tax incentive was given years ago and the industry has already built and is using their new facility?

Our early January weather has been replaced, and replaced with a vengeance! Earlier this week we had some of the coldest weather the South has experienced this winter. However it is bouncing back, but that yo-yo effect is what many doctors credit for our winter viral infections. We adjust to the warm weather and it suddenly turns cold and before we adjust to that, the bug has hit us. Actually that may play a part, but we suspect the fact people are in closed buildings with less fresh air and the bugs just circulate around and around until they find a way into someone's mouth, nose, etc.

On both the state and national level lawmakers are jumping on the idea of raising the benefits of military folks, mainly those in combat zones. National bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate to increase the life insurance benefits for these folks. It isn't often something comes along that the Republicans and the Democrats claim to be an "ideal idea" but it happens to be one of them. It isn't a bad idea (we can't do too much for the ones we defend our cherished freedoms with their very lives) and will not cost enough to completely wreck the federal budget. Hopefully every American soldier headed to the war zone has listened to good advice and already purchased additional life insurance to protect his or her family in case the worst of the worst happens. However, we have read some stories which would have readers believe that without this personally purchasing of insurance surviving family members are left on welfare, which isn't true. In addition to any already existing life insurance, there are lifetime benefits for surviving wives (until they remarry) and any minor children get a monthly check until they become of age. As we have noted before on other issues, the idea is good on its real merits without salting the building up with half truths and misleading statements.

Elba officials and other members of the Economic Development Corporation entertained another group of industrial prospects one day recently. While they know the importance of continuing to put Elba's best foot forward to these prospects, you will not see the uncontrollable excitement that was exhibited at the first dozen or so prospect visits immediately after the initial announcement of the new Hyundai plant at Montgomery.

**VISIT THE
ELBA CITY LIBRARY**
During February
to View Oil Paintings
on Exhibit By Elba Artists
Painting Instructor
Linda Rawls

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

the wrong choices to become involved in crime, and too often, no one is there to help them resist. Many of these at-risk young people are exposed, on a daily basis, to illegal drugs, alcohol, theft, gang activity, and more. Many of them later say that they had come to believe these were their only choices.

MENTOR ALABAMA is an initiative of my office that recruits mentors to serve as tutors and role models, as friends to our young people who provide them with consistent, positive support to discourage them from the wrong choices that will rob them of their youth and destroy their future. We provide, many young people will become statistics in a juvenile crime database and/or an occupant in a corrections facility.

Too many of our youth are tempted and pressured to make them in positive direc-

tions. According to the National Mentoring Partnership, mentored teens are 46 percent less likely to become involved with drugs, 27 percent less likely to begin using alcohol, 37 percent less likely to skip class, and 52 percent less likely to skip school. Moreover, they are more confident in their academic performance and are able to get along better with their families. These statistics alone make mentoring worthwhile. They tell us that without a positive influence that a mentor can provide, many young people will become statistics in a juvenile crime database and/or an occupant in a corrections facility.

I urge you individually and as groups, to join us in taking action. Call me or write to the MENTOR ALABAMA hotline at 1-800-355-2400, log on to our website at www.mentor.state.al.us or write to us at the Office of the Attorney General, 11 South Union Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36130. It's the right thing to do.

Find out more by visiting IRS.gov or by calling the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040.

On the Web: <http://www.irs.gov> Alabama Dept. of Revenue: <http://www.ador.state.al.us/>

Taxpayers can also e-file through most tax preparers and

program or the Alabama Free File Alliance, which both offer free e-filing through participating companies' Web sites, or by purchasing and using tax software. The IRS projects that about 233,000 Alabamians will file online from their own computers in 2005.

Taxpayers can also e-file through most tax preparers and

through many volunteers-staffed sites statewide that offer free tax preparation to low-income, elderly, or disabled filers.

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On the Web: [http://www.irs](http://www.irs.gov)

CHURCH NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. W.K. ELLISON
HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC

The battle for our children

One of the most desperate spiritual battles of the 21st century will be for the hearts of our children. This battle has been raging throughout the 20th century and is actually going to intensify. If we do not gird ourselves for this increasing contest for the hearts and minds of our children, we will begin to lose our children to the enemy on an unprecedented level. We cannot be content to just hold our ground; we must aggressively go for a breakthrough. The enemy is seducing our children with a counterfeit for the true desire of their hearts: a genuine relationship with the powerful, wise God who loves them.

With the intensity of the battle increasing, our children will be kept in the fold by just a good youth program. Nor will good sermons or good Sunday school lessons satisfy them. God, who is Spirit, created humans to hunger for a relationship with the supernatural, and this hunger is acutely felt during adolescence. If adolescents are denied a relationship with the supernatural power of God, they will be extremely vulnerable to experimentation with evil, supernatural powers.

In the battle for the hearts of our children, the enemy is not going to play fair; he is going to employ the most horrible and cruel means available to him. He is already circulating books, movies, television programs, and music of such demonic power that an unprotected soul will be subject to spiritual oppression or possession. If the church does not wake up in this area, there is going to be an astonishing increase of violence committed by children against their parents or other children.

Parents who fail to discipline their children according to biblical mandates will find themselves being disciplined by their children or worse. Those who fail to monitor and control the books their children read, the music they listen to, or the movies and television programs their children watch, will soon see forces of evil arising in their children of the most extreme.

Now is the time to pray as never before for all Christian parents. Christian youth worker, and children's book authors. (We need also to pray for all teacher's and school boards.) The church must remember that its children and youth are as important as any other ministry in the church. Children's and youth ministers are not called to be baby-sitters, but equippers of a generation that has been destined from the foundation of the world to stand and confront the enemy in the world's darkest hour. The Lord will greatly bless, prosper, and anoint congregations who devote their resources to their children's and youth ministries. Source: A Prophetic Vision For the 21st Century by Rick Joyner.

The Wilkerson Family to be in concert at Basin Baptist Church

Basin Baptist Church will host the Wilkerson Family from Troy on Sunday night, January 30th at 5:30 p.m. The Wilkersons will be sharing testimony and presenting a pro-

Gospel Singing to be held at Elba Church of God of Prophecy

A Gospel Sing featuring the New Covenant Singers of Samson, Ala., will be take place at Elba Church of God of Prophecy. This event will be held January 30, 2005 at 5 p.m. Finger foods will be served afterwards.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church to host Gospel Singing January 30th

Mt. Zion Baptist Church will have a Gospel Singing Sunday, January 30 at 5 p.m.

The featured singing group will be the Monticello Blue Grass Gospel Singers.

South Alabama Conference Lay Organization to meet

The Quarterly Meeting of the South Alabama Conference Lay Organization will be held on Sunday, January 30 at 3:00 p.m. at Greater Bethel, Brundidge.

This body represents over 50 Wiregrass A.M.E. Churches and focuses on training lay members to be more productive Christian workers in the A.M.E. Church. For more information, please contact Conference President, Franklin Simmons, at 393-3827.

An International Missions Convention to be held at El Bethel Assembly of God

An International Missions Convention is being held at El Bethel Assembly of God February 5th and 6th. On the 5th starting at 6 p.m. there will be a banquet with food being cooked by the church using recipes from various different countries. On the 6th at 6 p.m. we will be ministered to by Rev. Vernon Davis. Rev. Davis is a retired missionary who spent 30 years in India teaching the Word of God. If you have any questions you may contact Rev. Michael Taylor at 894-2268.

The Wilkerson Family to be in concert at Basin Baptist Church

Basin Baptist Church will host the Wilkerson Family from Troy on Sunday night, January 30th at 5:30 p.m. The Wilkersons will be sharing testimony and presenting a pro-

gram of Bluegrass music. Everyone is invited to attend.

Basin will be sharing at 5:30 p.m. south of Elba on Highway 189. Nathan Carroll is pastor.

Spread the Love in Sunday School Contest planned at El Bethel

During the month of February El Bethel Assembly of God will be having a "Spread the Love in Sunday School" visitor contest. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and you are welcome to at

attend. All visitors will receive a small gift from the Sunday School Department. If you have any questions you may contact Rebecca Creel at 393-5487.

Church Directory

DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Don Grantham

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Discipleship Training.....5:00 p.m.

Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.

Worship Service.....7:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

CHURCH

Ralph Medley Jr., Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....5:00 p.m.

Worship Service.....7:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Service.....7:15 p.m.

JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Bry. Ashley Faust-Parr

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....5:00 p.m.

Worship Service.....7:00 p.m.

KINSTON

Danny Bradshaw, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....5:00 p.m.

Worship Service.....7:00 p.m.

KINSTON

Donny Bradshaw, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....5:00 p.m.

Worship Service.....7:00 p.m.

LIVING WORD PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Rev. Charles K. Jones, Pastor

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....5:00 p.m.

Worship Service.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD

Rev. David Tadlock

Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.

Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Even. Service.....5:00 p.m.

Worship Service.....7:00 p.m.

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Worship Service.....7:00

SCHOOLS

Co-Op Spotlight

by Kayla Kelley



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Casey Medlock &
Kayla Kelley

Elba High welcomes new home economics teacher

by Gale Olson

After returning from the Christmas holidays, the EHS student body was blessed with a new family and consumer sciences teacher (Home Ec).

Christina Whitlock graduated from Enterprise High School; then furthered her education at Shelton Community College and the University of Alabama with a Bachelor's degree in education. She is currently in the graduate program at Troy University-Daphne.

Mrs. Whitlock is the wife of Robert Whitlock and has two daughters, Kaleigh and Kinsley, and four step children, Brandon, Ashley, Morgan, and Austin.

Mrs. Whitlock has been teaching classes to teenagers since graduating from college. She has taught in both Coffee and Houston County for the past five years. Most of her teaching has been in the fields of life skills, young living and life preparation.

When asked what she found most impressive about Elba, Mrs. Whitlock replied, "The support I have received from both the faculty and administration is unbelievable. There is definitely an 'open door' policy here at Elba High School. The facilities are more than any teacher could ask for, and so far my students have been wonderful."

Mrs. Whitlock commented that Home Ec was always her first choice when deciding on a teaching career. She also stated that she enjoys working with youth in their teen years.

She believes that sewing is quickly becoming a "lost art," and hopes to give teens the knowledge to be able to sew later in life if they choose to do so.

This week's Co-Op Spotlight is Cameron Irvin.

Cameron is the 18-year-old daughter of Bruce and Lynn Irwin. She is currently employed at National Security.

While at the job, Cameron helps police before they are selected. She has been working at National Security for one week, but has come to enjoy her job.

When asked what she likes about her job, Cameron replied, "I enjoy getting work experience and working with great people and some of my friends."

This senior is very active at Elba High School. She is the Varsity Cheerleading Captain, Secretary of SGA, Secretary of Key Club, and a member of Sr. Beta and Mu Alpha Theta. Cameron also holds the position of secretary for Girl Scout Troop #300.

After graduating, Cameron plans to attend the University of Alabama and major in management with information systems and then pursue a law degree.

Congratulations, Cameron, for being this week's Co-Op Spotlight!

Books donated to Elba Elementary School

by Elizabeth Weeks



The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority participates in the Reading is Fundamental Program, and each year the sorority presents schools with books to use to enhance the school's reading program.

On Friday, January 7th, Elba Elementary participated in a "Reading Never Sleeps" pajama day.

Vice Principal Ms. Lakesha Brackins and fifth grade teacher Mrs. Kayla Harrison, Alpha Kappa Alpha members, presented the kindergarten class with books for the students.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH, EDUCATION & LOCAL SCHOOLS



You Keep A Night Light On Inside Your Home For Safety.
Doesn't It Make Sense To Keep One On Outside, Too?

Reliable,
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affordably and effectively.

ELBA WATER & ELECTRIC DEPT.
Contact: James E. Grimes
@ Ph. No. 897-2333

Bill Oberst speaks to high school English classes

by Rebecca English

Bill Oberst is a comedian who is incredible at imitating people. He puts on shows where he imitates people such as Mark Twain, J.F.K., Lewis Grizzard, even Jesus Christ of Nazareth. However, he didn't come to the Elba High School Thursday, Jan. 13, just to joke around.

Bill Oberst came to speak to the advanced 10th through 12th grade English classes about their future.

He claimed that when he was younger, he had nothing going for him (in the sense of popularity) except for the fact that he had this unbelievable talent of imitating people. Bill stuck with it throughout high school and college, and eventually landed some small roles in movies and television shows.

Bill Oberst will message to each student. The message was that everyone has a talent.

They might not know it right now, but when they figure it out, they should stick with it, and maybe build a future around it. Nothing is impossible.

Even though Mr. Oberst is a comedian, this was something he was serious about.

E.H.S. Student Spotlight

by Jennifer Grissett



Stephanie Sanders is this week's Student Spotlight. She is the daughter of Freddy and Tina Hanchey.

Steph is in the 10th grade and is involved in FBLA, Girl Scout Troop #300, and the Marching Tiger Band, in which she plays trumpet. Her hobbies include photography, shopping, chatting and designing web pages on the internet.

When asked what three words she would use to describe herself, Steph replied, "I am loud, talkative and upbeat."

Stephanie seems to be just the person to talk to in any situation.

Congratulations, Stephanie, on being this week's Student Spotlight!



Did You Know...?

by Kristi Spinks

Have you ever wondered where and why Valentine's Day was created?

Some believe that it originates from the Ancient Rome Feast of Lupercalia. He was one of the gods of the underworld who supposedly roamed the fields and kept the wolves away. Every year a festival was held in his honor on February 15th but back then the calendar weren't exactly the same.

One of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival, the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man drew a slip. The girl whose name was chosen would be his sweetheart for the year.

Legend also has it, that the holiday became Valentine's Day

after a priest named Valentine. Valentine was a priest in Rome at the time Christianity was a new religion. During this period there was an emperor called Claudius II who wouldn't let any of the roman soldiers to get married or engaged. He believed that if they did, it would cause them to want to stay at home instead of going to fight in the wars.

Valentine, on the other hand, defied the Emperor's decree and secretly married the young couples. He was eventually arrested, imprisoned, and put to death. After his death, Valentine was named a saint.

As Rome became more Christian, the priests moved the spring holiday from the 15th of February to the 14th naming it Valentine's Day. Now the holiday honored Saint Valentine instead of Lupercus.

Legend also has it, that the holiday became Valentine's Day



E.E.S. welcomes new employee

by Tori Brooks



E.E.S. Menu

January 31 - February 4, 2005

BREAKFAST

Monday - Cinnamon Bun, Sliced Cheese, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Tuesday - Pancakes, Syrup, Link Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Wednesday - Biscuit & Jelly, Patty Sausage, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Thursday - Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, Milk

Friday - Cheese Grits, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk

LUNCH

Monday - Chicken Nuggets, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Roll, 1/2 Apple, Milk

Tuesday - Hoagie, French Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Dill Pickles, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie, Milk

Wednesday - Burrito w/Chesse, Rice, Green Salad, 1/2 Orange, Milk

Thursday - Chicken Sandwich, English Peas, Potato Rounds, Pineapple Pudding, Milk

Friday - Spaghetti w/meat Sauce, Corn, Buttered Carrots, Crackers, Applesauce, Milk

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1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments 3-Bedroom Townhouses

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Water, sewage, garbage pick-up and pest control

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Reliable,
affordable power
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Call the energy experts at your local electric system.
They'll show you how to make your home safer -
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@ Ph. No. 897-2333



SCHOOLS

Seniors outscore Juniors in annual Powder Puff game

by Rashad Daniels

Brantley Student Council held its annual Powder Puff game, Juniors vs. Seniors, on Thursday, Jan. 13.

The Seniors got things going early after the Juniors didn't score on their first possession of the game. The Seniors took the ball and scored the only points of the game. It was an 8-0 victory.

With the Seniors also winning last year's game, they go out with a 2-0 record.

The Student Council would like to thank everyone who helped make this a success.

The Council will be getting ready for our annual donut sale which is coming up next month.

The Council is also helping the school by cleaning up the campus once a month. The



The Junior and Senior girls are shown at play!



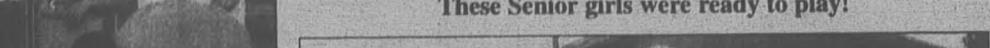
The Senior team and coaches



The Junior powder puff team



These Senior girls were ready to play!



The Senior coaches are shown giving their team one final pep talk before play.



Two Brantley students selected for SEUS Honor Bands

Secretaries Jessica Daniels and Rebecca Jones, Treasurer Amber Dates, and Junior Tyler Andrews, Courtney Bailey, Zach Ballard, Jana Beck, Chasity Booker, Emily Cain, Robbie Chappell, Kristin Compton, Dusty Dunn, Kandi Gooden, Angel Hall, Brandy Hall, Tami Hamm, Kim Harris, Deseray Hicks, Jessica Holland, Destin Kilcrease, Shontara King, Shareka King, Sitemble Lee, Sara Mack, Kim McCann, Josh Moore, Taronda Randall, Britany Reeves, Latisha Rodgers, Shakelia Salter, DeAndra Sheridan, Jill Smith, Courtney Strops, Britney Walker, Helen Walker, Jenelle Williamson and sponsor Helen Rountree.

The members include President Brittany Ballard,

ALL STATE SELECTIONS

Senior Devaris Skanes and Junior Tyler Weaver were selected as first team all state in Class 1A for December by the Alabama Sports Writers Association and The Birmingham News.

Skanes was chosen as a defensive back, and Weaver was chosen as an offensive lineman.

Jeffrey Daniels, a sophomore linebacker, received honorable mention.

The whole community is proud of these three men.

As part of the audition process, both young men had to make an audience of and supply a rating from their band director with a list of their musical accomplishments.

Taylor is a sophomore and plays euphonium in Brantley's band. He is also band historian.

Shane is a senior and plays tuba. He also serves as president of the band.

Taylor and Shane will travel to Troy on Thursday, Feb. 3, to audition for chair placement within the bands. They will then rehearse with other talented

musicians from Alabama, Florida and Georgia for the next two days.

The bands will present a

finale concert at 4:30 p.m. in

Fairhope and Georgiana for the next two days.

Admission is free and everyone

is invited to attend.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH & SCHOOLS!!

A Capella Singing

Friday, January 28

7:00 PM

Hosted by the

Elba Church of Christ

715 North Troy Highway
(across from Windham)*Everyone is Welcome!*

(All singing will be congregational)

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SPORTS

Views From.... THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

My baby girl Melanie will turn sixteen next week and over the weekend I got in the car with her and we rode all over Coffee County trying to get her ready to take her driver's test. She has already taken driver's education at school and knows how to drive, but until she can pass Dad's test she won't be ready to get behind the wheel by herself. I will admit she did a good job and should be a good driver. However, I will also admit my nerves aren't what they used to be!

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH....

*** The Elba Tigers bounced back from a tough area loss on Friday night to surprise third-ranked Brantley on Saturday night and ended the week with an 11-8 record. The Tigers got a little banged up in the loss Friday to Luverne and had to face the highly-ranked Bulldogs without leading scorer Brandon Kelley, but rose to the challenge on Saturday and seemed a step quicker than the Bulldogs on both ends of the court as they posted perhaps the biggest win of the season. Elba has proven it can play with any team on its schedule and the win over Brantley should help the players realize just how good they can be when they play their best. One win doesn't make a season, but the win over the Bulldogs sure made it for a while.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers bounced back from last week's two losses to defeat Luverne and Brantley and moved their record to 10-7. The win over Luverne upped the Lady Tigers' record to 3-2 in the area and clinched the number two seed in the upcoming area tournament, which will pit Elba against New Brockton for the third time this season. The Lady Tigers didn't play four solid quarters in either of the two wins and seemed a little bored Saturday night against Brantley, but found a way to win both games and may be getting ready to peak at just the right time. The Elba girls appear to have a solid chance at making it to a sub-region contest for the first time in years if they continue to improve and work hard.

*** The county teams continued to enjoy solid seasons last week as all three boys and girls teams posted wins. New Brockton got a big cross-country win over Kinston to post its eighth win of the season, while the Lady Gamecocks also reached the eight-win plateau with a win over the Lady Bulldogs. Up at Zion Chapel the Rebels moved near the double-digit mark in wins with wins over Providence and Goshen, and the Lady Rebels also got in the fun as they defeated the Lady Eagles. Kinston posted wins over McKenzie and Pleasant Home to hang its ninth win of the season on the board, while the Lady Bulldogs claimed a win over McKenzie and seems to be getting better each and every time they hit the court. It has been a long time since the county teams have all posted a ten-win season, so this is the year all three make their mark.

* The Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame will add a true legend to girls athletics in March when Amelia Rhoades is added to the prestigious hall of honor in Montgomery. Coach Rhoades has been a teacher/coach for 32 years at Elba. Elba and over those years has been a driving force in moving girls athletics to the forefront. Her dedication to girls athletics at Kinston High School forced many area schools to start girls teams in volleyball, and over the years many principals across South Alabama have heard parents say "If Kinston can do it, we can too!" While her wins total in volleyball, softball and basketball rank near the top among her peers, it isn't wins and losses that have made Coach Rhoades a "Hall of Fame" coach; it is her dedication to girls athletics and her refusal to allow girls athletics to take a back seat to boys sports. I wrote a letter of recommendation for Coach Rhoades and in it I wrote the Hall of Fame would be an even better source of pride to all in the state when her name joined the ranks. Congratulations Coach Rhoades, it is an honor you richly deserve.

*** In closing, one day last week I was listening to the radio in my truck and heard a radio sportscaster try to calm Auburn fans by saying they should feel honored that Texas thought enough about one of their assistants to steal him away. That is true, and Auburn does have one of the top staffs in the nation in college football. I had to laugh when the same radio sportscaster said while Alabama's staff should remain as is, one assistant was being recruited by a Tuscaloosa furniture store. Oh well....

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WITH YOUR ATTENDANCE AT
GAMES!!!!**

NOTICE

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ARE DUE

JANUARY 1, 2005

And Will Be Delinquent

FEBRUARY 1, 2005

There Will Be A Penalty Fee Plus Interest
Charged If Not Paid By Due Date!

Municipal Ordinances require that all persons engaged in any exhibition, trade, business, vocation, occupation, profession or calling or doing any action specified within the corporate limits/police jurisdiction of THE CITY OF ELBA are subject to a BUSINESS LICENSE.

CITY OF ELBA
WAYNE GRANTHAM
CITY CLERK

Improve record to 11-8

Tigers surprise Brantley 64-52

The Elba Tigers battled Brantley Saturday night and used an aggressive offense and a fast quick defense to surprise the third-ranked Bulldogs 64-52, in

The win upped Elba's record to 11-8, while Brantley saw its record slip to 12-4 with the loss. Brantley jumped out to an early 4-0 lead on baskets by Thad Frazier and Derrick Weeks, but the Tigers answered the early Bulldog run with a 5-0 run of their own and pulled ahead 5-4 with 4:58 remaining in the first quarter on a jumper by Mason Gulley. Reymar Rogers scored five straight Elba points in the middle of the stanza to keep the Tigers on top, and Elba moved ahead 13-10 with 2:36 left when Mason Gulley drilled a long three-pointer. Brantley pulled even at 13-13 with 2:02 remaining on a Jeffery Daniels free-throw and the two rivals swapped baskets in the closing minutes as at the end of the quarter the score was tied at 17-17.

A lay-up by Reymar Rogers and a Mason Gulley three-pointer gave the Tigers a 22-17 lead and Elba moved 6-52 left in the second quarter, but Brantley rallied and behind the outside shooting of Kevin Pitts and the inside power of Derrick Weeks outscored the Tigers 9-0 over the next five minutes to pull out to a 26-22 lead with 1:32 still left in the quarter. Elba snapped its long scoring drought on a pair of free-throws by LaRay Williams with 1:30 left in the quarter, and Williams added a late steal and lay-up as the Tigers caught the Bulldogs and went in the half at 26-26.

Brantley regained the lead at 26-26 early in the third quarter on an inside basket by Derrick Weeks, but this time it was Elba's turn to stage a rally and the Tigers did just that as they



Elba's Coach Karl Bledsoe talks with his team during a time-out in the fourth quarter of last week's 64-52 win over Brantley. The win upped Elba's record to 11-8 with key games ahead against Geneva County and Enterprise. Also pictured is assistant coach Frank Phillips.

outscored Brantley 12-2 over the next three minutes to pull out to a 38-30 advantage. Shawn Abbott scored six points to open the fourth quarter with a 6-1 run as Brantley cut the Elba lead to 50-43, but the Tigers' Duke Carr and LaRay Williams converted easy lay-ups against the Brantley press as Elba regained command by taking a 54-43 lead with 3:01 remaining in the game. Elba, which conceded on the 16th consecutive point in the fourth quarter, converted a free-throw with 1:15 left to pull ahead 64-50 with 1:15 left and gave up an uncontested basket at the buzzer as the Tigers posted the big 64-

won on top 49-37. The Bulldogs used the inside scoring of Derrick Weeks to open the fourth quarter with a 6-1 run as Brantley cut the Elba lead to 50-43, but the Tigers' Duke Carr and LaRay Williams converted easy lay-ups against the Brantley press as Elba regained command by taking a 54-43 lead with 3:01 remaining in the game. Elba, which conceded on the 16th consecutive point in the fourth quarter, converted a free-throw with 1:15 left to pull ahead 64-50 with 1:15 left and gave up an uncontested basket at the buzzer as the Tigers posted the big 64-

52 upset win.

Mason Gulley scored 21 points to lead Elba, while Reymar Rogers added 16 and LaRay Williams scored 11. Derrick Weeks led Brantley with 14 points, while Kevin Pitts added 13 and Thad Frazier scored 12.

E 17 9 23 15 - 64
B 17 9 11 15 - 52

Elba (64): Gulley 21, Williams 11, Rogers 16, Carr 7, Abbott 6.

Brantley (52): Pitts 13, Frazier 12, Skanes 4, D. Daniels 2, Weeks 14, J. Daniels 7.

Lady Tigers defeat Luverne & Brantley to up win total to ten

The Elba Lady Tigers hit the court twice last week and claimed two impressive home court wins to improve their record to 10-7 on the season.

Following are highlights of last week's action:

ELBA 52
LUVERNE 43

The Elba Lady Tigers hosted Luverne on Friday night in a key area match-up and improved their area record to 3-2 with an exciting 52-43 win.

Elba got off to a slow start and trailed 11-4 after one quarter of play, but began to heat up from the floor in the second stanza and poured in 16 points to rally and carried a 20-18 lead at the half. The Lady Tigers continued their offensive fireworks in the third quarter as they scored 20 points to pull out to a 40-31 advantage, and then easily held on late to claim the important 52-43 area win.

LaFonda Thigpen scored 22 points and Ashleigh Waddall added 17 to lead Elba, while Brantley and Dixon led Luverne with 14 points piece.

Elba (52): Thigpen 22, Waddall 17, Reynolds 4, Tyso 3, Lawrence 6.

Luverne (43): Franklin 9, Braxton 2, Mitchell 1, Chambers 3, Dixon 14, Brantley 14.

ELBA 33
BRANTLEY 21

The Elba Lady Tigers held Brantley scoreless in the fourth quarter to rally and claim a 33-21 win.

Brantley (21): Daniels 9, Wright 5, Randall 5, Salter 2.

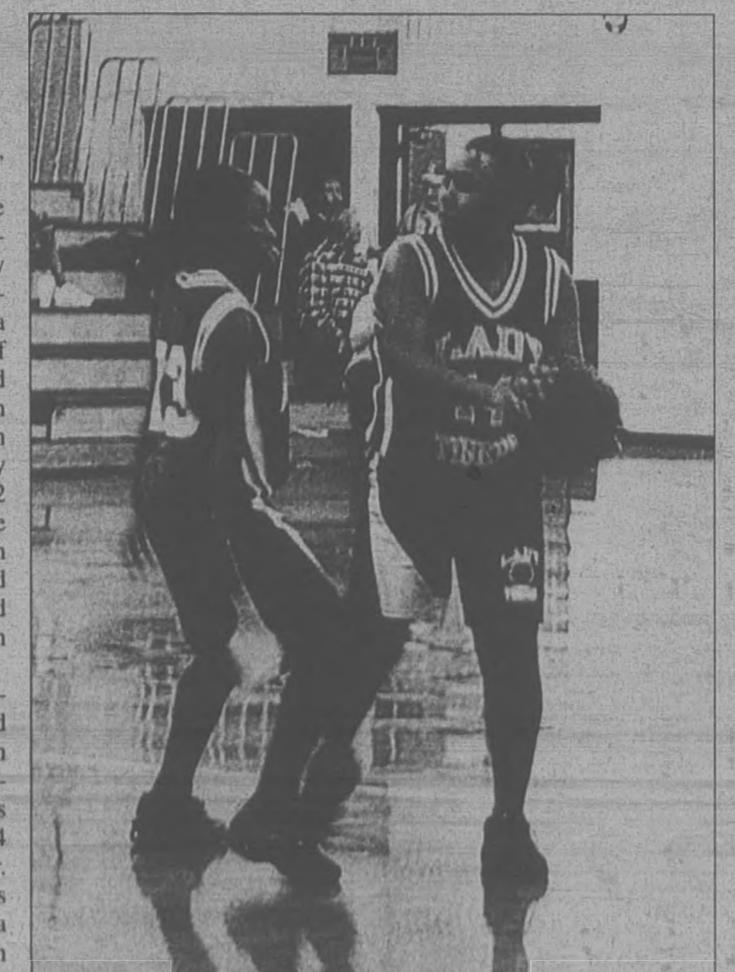
Fund raising project underway for Elba High School football team

The Elba High School football team currently selling Dominos Pizza cards. These 40-punch cards allow the purchaser to buy one large pizza and get another large pizza free at any Dominos Pizza restaurant.

The objective of this project is to generate funds to buy speed drums for the football players, and the cards will be sold through next Wednesday, Feb. 2. Anyone interested in buying a pizza card should see a football player or call Coach Scott Rials at 897-2122.

Baseball players needed for area team

Anyone ages 18 and up that wish to play baseball in the Enterprise Men's baseball league should attend a meeting at Joe Jackson at 347-4275.



Elba Lady Tiger Ashley Carpenter looks to pass in last week's win over Brantley. The Lady Tigers improved their record to 10-8 last week with two big wins.

Elba Tigers fall to Luverne 69-59 in key Class 2A Area 3 match-up

The Elba Tigers hosted the Luverne Tigers Friday night in a key area contest and saw their two-game winning streak snapped as Luverne remained undefeated in area play by defeating the hometown Tigers 69-59.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

Elba battled seven-trunked Luverne even tempo throughout the opening quarter and entered the second quarter and at 18-18, but could not keep pace with its high-scoring visitors in the second quarter and watched as Luverne pulled out to a 35-19 halftime advantage. Luverne extended its lead to 50-41 in the third quarter and turned back a late Elba rally to post the 69-59 win.

Elba (35): McCreary 2, Hawkins 16, Franklin 15, Burnett 12, Parks 16, Reed 8.

Elba (59): Gulley 11, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Rogers 12, Abbott 12.

(JV GAME 1)

Luverne (34): Sexton 8, Kilpatrick 14, Jones 4, Lowery 4, Jackson 4.

Elba (32): Martin 5, Morris 8, Tilla 8, Butts 8, McCormick 2.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

Elba (35): McCreary 2, Hawkins 16, Franklin 15, Burnett 12, Parks 16, Reed 8.

Elba (59): Gulley 11, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Rogers 12, Abbott 12.

(JV GAME 2)

Luverne (34): Sexton 8, Kilpatrick 14, Jones 4, Lowery 4, Jackson 4.

Elba (32): Martin 5, Morris 8, Tilla 8, Butts 8, McCormick 2.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

Elba (35): McCreary 2, Hawkins 16, Franklin 15, Burnett 12, Parks 16, Reed 8.

Elba (59): Gulley 11, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Rogers 12, Abbott 12.

(JV GAME 3)

Luverne (34): Sexton 8, Kilpatrick 14, Jones 4, Lowery 4, Jackson 4.

Elba (32): Martin 5, Morris 8, Tilla 8, Butts 8, McCormick 2.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

Elba (35): McCreary 2, Hawkins 16, Franklin 15, Burnett 12, Parks 16, Reed 8.

Elba (59): Gulley 11, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Rogers 12, Abbott 12.

(JV GAME 4)

Luverne (34): Sexton 8, Kilpatrick 14, Jones 4, Lowery 4, Jackson 4.

Elba (32): Martin 5, Morris 8, Tilla 8, Butts 8, McCormick 2.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

Elba (35): McCreary 2, Hawkins 16, Franklin 15, Burnett 12, Parks 16, Reed 8.

Elba (59): Gulley 11, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Rogers 12, Abbott 12.

(JV GAME 5)

Luverne (34): Sexton 8, Kilpatrick 14, Jones 4, Lowery 4, Jackson 4.

Elba (32): Martin 5, Morris 8, Tilla 8, Butts 8, McCormick 2.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

Elba (35): McCreary 2, Hawkins 16, Franklin 15, Burnett 12, Parks 16, Reed 8.

Elba (59): Gulley 11, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Rogers 12, Abbott 12.

(JV GAME 6)

Luverne (34): Sexton 8, Kilpatrick 14, Jones 4, Lowery 4, Jackson 4.

Elba (32): Martin 5, Morris 8, Tilla 8, Butts 8, McCormick 2.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

Elba (35): McCreary 2, Hawkins 16, Franklin 15, Burnett 12, Parks 16, Reed 8.

Elba (59): Gulley 11, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Rogers 12, Abbott 12.

(JV GAME 7)

Luverne (34): Sexton 8, Kilpatrick 14, Jones 4, Lowery 4, Jackson 4.

Elba (32): Martin 5, Morris 8, Tilla 8, Butts 8, McCormick 2.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 10-8, 1-4 in area play, while Luverne upped its record to 13-5, 5-0 in area action.

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AUCTIONS

ABSOLUTE AUCTION 678 +/- Ac. Hunting Plantation. Feb. 19th. 1-800-558-5464. J.P. King Auction Co Inc. Firm #000016959-0; Jerry C. King, Broker #000016960-0; J. Craig King Auctioneer #354; Scott Barnes Apprentice #254.

ANTIQUES

ANTIQUE/COLLECTIBLE Auction 1850-1950. www.flomatonantiqueauction.com. Friday, February 4, 2005. 5:00 p.m. Furniture, rugs, cut glass, Nippon, carnival. See internet for itemized catalog. Located FL/AL state line. N/H Heller 1094/464.

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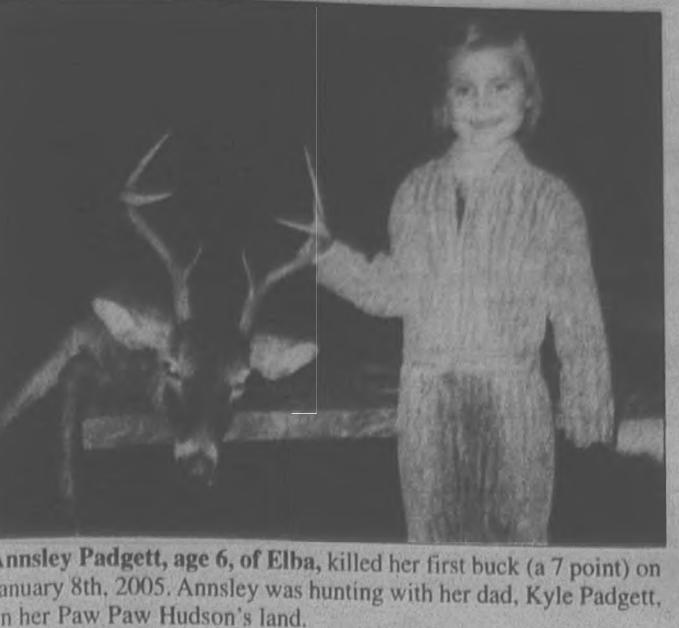
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Zion Chapel hosts Career Day for elementary students



Annsley Padgett, age 6, of Elba, killed her first buck (a 7 point) on January 8th, 2005. Annsley was hunting with her dad, Kyle Padgett, on her Paw Paw Hudson's land.



This eight point buck was taken by Joseph Parrish age 10. This is his first buck. It had 6 inch times and a 14 inch spread. It was taken on January 16, 2005 at his favorite hunting spot.

NRCS announces continuation of ground and surface water conservation project

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering a special program called Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC). The program has been funded and is ready to be presented nationwide.

According to Bob Jones, NRCS State Conservationist, "The primary purpose of the special project is to promote ground and surface water conservation by providing incentive payments to producers to carry out eligible conservation activities in order to improve irrigation systems and/or enhance irrigation efficiencies."

Eligibility is for land that has been irrigated for two of the last five years prior to application. Applications will be taken on a continuous sign-up basis. All complete applications received by March 4, 2005, will be considered for funding.

National Security Group declares quarterly dividend

The Board of Directors of The National Security Group, Inc. declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.215 per share at its meeting on January 20, 2005. This represents an annual indicated dividend rate of \$0.86 per share.

This cash dividend is payable on February 28, 2005 to shareholders of record February 7, 2005.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Elba Chamber of Commerce presents...
January's Business of the Month
Elba Florist and Gifts

Elba Florist and Gifts opened on Feb. 12, 1954, and for the past 51 years, Bill Daughtry and staff have been in business in downtown Elba.

The shop's first location was on Simmons Street near Claxton Avenue; however, the storefront proved to be too small within two weeks. A move to Factory Avenue provided more space and a home on the square for the next 14 years.

Since 1968, Elba Florist has been at its current location on Simmons Street.

Mr. Daughtry was joined in the shop by his wife, Carolyn, when she retired from teaching in 1993. Bettye Merle Boutwell has been on staff for several years, and in 2003, Marty Harrelson, AIFD, came on board with the Daughtrys.

The staff of Elba Florist and Gifts always looks forward to serving the needs of the local community and invites everyone to stop by the shop whenever they need a floral or gift idea.

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CCC

(Continued from Page One)

heads and make decisions without the approval of the commissioners?" he asked.

Dalrymple said he had made no decision. Instead, he said, as commission chairman, he has the authority to sign checks, and while looking at the employee time sheets, he noticed not every employee was working eight hours per day. He said he brought this to the attention of the department manager and was now bringing it before the commission in search of a solution.

Dalrymple again stated that he feels the employees should work eight hours per day.

"I like to see a happy workforce," Brooks said. "I think you interrupt me when you go over the department heads."

Dalrymple said as long as the policy remains 40 hours per week payable every two weeks, he feels he has the authority to bring the matter to attention if the hours are not being worked.

Brooks offered a motion to table the issue to allow attorney Cassady more time to review the matter; however, his motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Tom Grimsley said he had spoken with Revenue Commissioner Ronnie Burns, and Burns indicated he has no problem working his employees from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Grimsley then offered a motion to establish work hours

for all county administrative and courthouse offices to be from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. to accomplish a 40 hour work week. He received a second from Commissioner Linda Westbrook, and the motion passed with a 4-1 vote. Brooks cast the lone opposing vote. Commissioner Robert Stephen was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioners unanimously voted Monday morning to vacate County Road 653. Prior to this vote, a public hearing was held; however, no one asked to speak.

County engineer - Randy Tindell said the county will now have to publish a notice in the newspaper indicating the road has been vacated by the county. After that, he said the county will pull its signs from the road.

In other business, commissioners:

* Approved a concrete bid by awarding to Russell Concrete Co. of Elba. Using the three percent local business advantage, Russell provided the low bid.

* Approved the preliminary plat for Phase II of Hunter Ridge subdivision.

BOE (Continued from Page One)

(Continued from Page One)

will reward students with perfect attendance, no late arrivals and no early checkouts, with an excused day from school. It will also apply to students with all A's and one absence for the nine weeks. A letter from interim principal Lakesha Brackins outlined the proposal to board members.

David Collins was named head softball coach, moving up from assistant coach. Amelia Rhodes was named Attendance Officer and Professional Development Coordinator. She will continue to teach three classes a day. State department rules require the system have an Attendance Officer, according to Weeks.

The superintendent updated board members on the system's compliance with their Corrective Action Plan, their Technology Plan and the parking lot paving project.

Upcoming Meeting:

The Southeast Alabama Beekeepers Association will hold its monthly meeting on the 10th of Feb. 2005 at the Coffee County Farm Center. For more information please call Elizabeth Whitaker at 334-894-2077 or Charles Jester at 334-308-2724.